



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT Sussex County | January 2022

The purpose of the Community Engagement Report is to share the activities, projects and accomplishments of UD Faculty, staff and students that are impacting the state with community leaders, stakeholders and citizens of the three counties.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Coastal Delaware Paddling Map created with Southern Delaware Tourism, Delaware State Parks, Dogfish Head, Quest Kayak, Conservation Community Consulting and Lewes Chamber of Commerce

The explosion in paddling interest in southern Delaware helps both the local economy and tourism growth for our region. One surefire way to expand the sport is by making useful paddling information widely available to residents and visitors alike. With the goal of seeing even more people engaged in paddling activities, Delaware Sea Grant pulled together a great team of local paddling enthusiasts who worked together in 2019 to produce the Coastal Delaware Paddling Map and associated website. The demand for this popular map quickly outstripped the number of copies available and a 2nd printing became necessary. In spring 2021, Delaware Sea Grant received financial support from the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and Dogfish Head in order to print an additional 5,000 copies. The Fenwick Island Chamber was recently provided 400 additional copies of the map after exhausting its first two deliveries.

The Delaware Coastal Paddling Map can be found at the local chambers, as well as online at [Paddle Coastal Delaware](#).



Locals, as well as tourists have begun to enjoy more self guided paddling tours in the area. This has greatly increased the number of people coming to southern Delaware to explore these new routes.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Delaware celebrates leading industry through educational courses provided by the University of Delaware Agriculture Program.

Delaware Agriculture Week in January 2022 marks its 17th year delivering research-based information and updates to growers and agriculture industry professionals across the Delmarva region. Sessions on agronomy, fruits and vegetables, nutrient management, hay and forage, poultry, risk management, beef, swine, small ruminants and equine, urban agriculture and woodland management are scheduled virtually using Zoom, with many sessions simultaneously broadcasting to small in-person groups at the Sussex and Kent extension offices. Delaware Agriculture Week serves Delaware's largest economic driver—agriculture. The event is sponsored by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University Cooperative Extension, and the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Extension agents and specialists from the UD's Carvel Research Education Center in Georgetown, play an essential role in the planning and delivery of this long-standing tradition.

For more information on Delaware Agriculture Week sessions, visit the [Delaware Agriculture Week website](#).



Multiple sessions across a wide variety of agriculture topics will be offered through virtual and live group viewing in county extension offices.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

UD's Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) has several ongoing collaborative projects focused on promoting health equity in Sussex County. Believing access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and public health concern, PHC has partnered with the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP) to ensure that low-income residents from the New Hope community in Ellendale, who have been dealing with contaminated well water with high levels of nitrates and iron for decades, have access to clean water as they await connection to the public water system following a successful 2018 referendum. Many New Hope residents cannot afford the costs of home filtration systems or the purchase of bottled water for cooking and drinking. Thanks to generous donations from the MD-DE-DC Beverage Association and the Delaware Food Industry Council to PHC, we have helped coordinate and provide monthly deliveries totaling over 2,000 jugs and 10,000 gallons of clean water to more than 35 households since May 2020.



Volunteers deliver water to families in the New Hope community as they await to be connected to the public water system.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The Hoophall East presented by Slam Dunk to the Beach High School Basketball tournament was held December 27–29 at Cape Henlopen High School. The event had the number one ranked players in the country from both the junior and senior classes, as well as the number three ranked team in the country participating. It drew over 7,500 fans to the games in person. The games were also broadcast nationally on Bleacher Report which had over 100,000 viewers for the game between Camden, NJ, High School and Archbishop Wood High School. “We are so proud of the event for the economic impact and national awareness it brings to Sussex County as well as the amazing talent and teams that the Sussex County basketball fans can see in person,” stated Tournament Director and Professor of Sport Management, Dr. Matthew J Robinson.



Sussex County Council President Mike Vincent, State Rep. Dan Short, Dr. Matt Robinson, State Rep. Tim Dukes and Retired State Rep. Harvey Kenton

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The Governor's Institute for School Leadership (GISL) is a partnership between the Delaware Governor's Office, Department of Education (DOE), University of Delaware College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), local Delaware school districts and Delaware public schools. GISL, led by Dr. Jacquelyn Wilson, is a collaborative response to the need for continual support and development of leaders at all levels within public education and acts upon the benefits that are derived from intentional and collaborative district, university and government partnerships. The Governor's Institute for School Leadership is conceptualized as a two-prong approach to support the professional learning of individuals at both ends of the school leadership spectrum. Participating Sussex County schools and districts include East Millsboro Elementary School of Indian River School District, Sussex Tech High School of Sussex Vocational School District, and North Laurel Early Learning Academy of Laurel School District.



The GISL works towards helping to empower and support education leadership in Delaware, through various programs designed in partnership with the state, as well as the university.